

for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6315-5]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Cooperative Agreements and Superfund State Contracts for Superfund Response Actions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following proposed and/or continuing Information Collection Request (ICR's) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Office of Grants and Debarment, 401 M. Street SW., Washington, DC 20460, Mailstop 3903R.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Remit comments to: William G. Hedling, (202) 564-5377/Fax: (202) 565-2468 hedling.william@epa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which apply for EPA assistance.

Title: General Administrative Requirements for Assistance Programs. EPA ICR #0938.06, OMB Control #2030-0020, Expiration 6/30/99.

Abstract: The information is collected from applicants/recipients of EPA assistance and is used to make awards, pay recipients and collect information on how Federal funds are being spent. EPA needs the information to meet its Federal stewardship. This information Collection Request (ICR) renewal request authorizes the collection of information under EPA's General Regulations for Assistance programs that establishes minimum management requirements for all recipients of EPA

grants or cooperative agreements (assistance agreements). 40 CFR part 30 "Grants with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations" includes the management requirements for these potential grantees. 40 CFR part 31 "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments" includes the management requirements for these potential grantees. These regulations include only those provisions mandated by statute, required by OMB Circulars or added by EPA to ensure sound and effective financial assistance management. This SF-83 combines all of these requirements under OMB Control Number 2030-0020. The information required by these regulations will be used by the EPA award official to make assistance awards, to make assistance payments, and to verify that the recipient is using Federal funds appropriately to comply with OMB Circulars. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The annual record keeping burden for this collection is estimated to average 31 hours per application. The estimated annual number of respondents is approximated 4,360. The estimated total burden hours on respondents: 135,160. The frequency of collection: as required.

Send comments regarding these matters, or any other aspect of information collection, including

suggestions for reducing the burden, to the address listed above.

Dated: March 21, 1999.

Gary M. Katz,

Director, Grants Administration Division.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6315-1]

Extension of Attainment Dates for Downwind Transport Areas

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; proposed interpretation; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Today's document announces EPA's interpretation of the Clean Air Act (Act) regarding the possibility of extending attainment dates for ozone nonattainment areas that have been classified as moderate or serious for the 1-hour standard and which are downwind of areas that have interfered with their ability to demonstrate attainment by dates prescribed in the Act. The guidance memorandum that is being printed in today's notice is entitled "Extension of Attainment Dates for Downwind Transport Areas" and was signed by Richard D. Wilson, Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, on July 16, 1998. This notice follows up on the statement made in the guidance memorandum that EPA would request comments on its interpretation.

A number of areas may find themselves facing the prospect of being reclassified or "bumped up" to a higher classification in spite of the fact that pollution beyond their control contributes to the levels of ozone they experience. The notice addresses the problem by providing an avenue to extend the attainment dates for areas affected by transported pollution. The EPA intends to finalize the interpretation in this guidance only when it applies in the appropriate context of individual rulemakings addressing specific attainment demonstrations and requests for attainment date extensions. If EPA approves an area's attainment demonstration and attainment date extension request, the area would no longer be subject to bump up for failure to attain by its original attainment date.

DATES: The EPA is establishing an informal 30-day comment period for today's notice, ending on April 26, 1999.